Claims

1.-8.   (canceled)

9.   (new) A method for redistributing traffic in response to a traffic overload or link failure in a packet-based communication network, the packet-based network having a first node and a link with multipath distribution of packets, with at least two outward links assigned to an array of paths, the outward links capable of distributing the packets having the same destination, comprising:

determining by the first node when a traffic load on a first outward link exceeds a limit or the link fails;

redistributing the traffic load, via the first node, independently of the external control entities, by routing at least some of the packets, which would have been routed via the first outward link had the load distribution not been changed, to a second outward link assigned to the same array of paths as the first outward link; and

sending a message to a upstream node to reduce the traffic load sent to the first node by the upstream node that would be distributed via the arrays of paths via the first node, the upstream node upstream in respect of the packets distributed via the arrays of paths, sending the message if the traffic load does not drop below the limit as a result of the traffic redistribution without a different limit being exceeded.

10.   (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein the traffic load redistribution is separated into a first stage and a next stage, and the initiation of the next stage is started at a time after the end of the first stage.

11.   (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein a message is sent to the upstream node for traffic redistribution at the upstream node, the message notifying to the upstream node to reduce traffic that would be distributed via the arrays of paths via the first node .

12.   (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the message includes information about the traffic load reduction.

13.   (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the notified upstream node sends a message to a further upstream node for traffic redistribution at the further upstream node, the message sent when the notified upstream node cannot achieve the traffic load reduction for the first node via traffic load redistribution without causing a further upper limit for a traffic load to be exceeded.

14.   (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the upstream node upstream node reduces the traffic load according to the message received or sends a message to the further upstream node to reduce the traffic load.

15.   (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein the upstream node, which receives the message to reduce the traffic load, is an edge node, the edge node reduces the load by reducing the limits for controlling an access to the network.

16.   (new) A node for a packet-based network with multipath distribution, comprising:

a distribution array including a first outward link and a second outward link;

a traffic overload identifier that identifies traffic overload on the first outward link;

a redistributor that redistributes traffic to the second outward link; and

a transmitter for sending a message to a upstream node to reduce the traffic load sent to the node by the upstream node that would be distributed via the arrays of paths via the node, the upstream node upstream in respect of the packets distributed via the arrays of paths, sending the message if the traffic load does not drop below the limit as a result of the traffic redistribution without a different limit being exceeded.

17.   (new) The node according to claim 16, further comprising a receiver for receiving a message to reduce the traffic load in a downstream node.